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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNSO ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
ETHIOPIA

IPF: (1987-1991) $98 270 000
(ETH/90/X01) - Community Forestry Development and Soil Conservation Project, Fedis

Date of approval by the AC: 1/	6 March 1991
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Proposed UNSO contribution:	$2 433 300
Source of funds:	The Government of Netherlands or UNSO General Resources

Project background

Ethiopia is currently facing a crisis of unprecedented proportion in the forestry sector which is also affecting agricultural production and the economy as a whole They key problem is deforestation which is caused by uncontrolled overgrazing and clear-cutting of forests both for agricultural expansion and for meeting the energy needs of both rural and urban residents. These activities now consume an estimated 100,000 to 200,000 hectares of forest annually. If the trend continues, the country's last forests will disappear permanently, leaving behind an ecological wasteland.

Although the contribution of the forestry sector to monetary GDP is marginal, it is of immense importance to the population as the main source of fuel and construction wood. Wood energy is supplemented by other biomass substitutes such as dung and crop residues. Almost 95 percent of the country's energy requirements is met from these three sources. This state of affairs cannot be sustained any longer both from ecological and economic point of view. Therefore, because of its many inter-relationships with productivity of the land, the woody biomass issue must be viewed as an integral part of the national food security strategy.

In addition to the problems outlined above, the eastern Hararge Region is also facing a severe food deficit. According to the Early Warning System in Ethiopia on food supply prospects for 1991, the food shortage in Fedis, Meyuburka and Garamuleta Awrajas means that a total of 85,640 people are likely to need food support in 1991.

1/ This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

Description of project

This is a Community Forestry and Soil Conservation project designed to combat environmental degradation and rural poverty in the Fedis Awraja of Eastern Hararge Region of Ethiopia. The principal intervention measures will include community forestry, on-farm forestry (agro-forestry) and soil and water conservation; with a component of rural infrastructure development. Project strategy is extension oriented and will include support to the formation and participation of grassroots community participation (interest groups below the level of the larger Government sponsored Peasant Association structure) and institutional support to the Government Institution (MoA) as a means of ensuring the long-term sustainability of the development effort.

In an effort to contribute to the alleviation of the current food shortages in the area, the project will utilize food for work in the community forestry, soil and water conservation and construction components of the project.

Inputs

UNSO will provide a total of 79 work-months, consisting of one senior advisor, two associate experts and short-term consultancies. WFP will provide food inputs consisting of 2,221 MT wheat and 89 MT oil. Other inputs will include buildings, vehicles, nursery equipment, fuel and maintenance, and training.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	350 000
Subcontract	626 500
Training	240 000
Equipment	628 400
Miscellaneous #	509 100
Agency support cost	79 300
Total	2 433 300

(# Includes operation and maintenance, direct cost and contingency)

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